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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

NSC Review Completed

January 27, 1954

MEMORANDUM TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD

SUBJECT: Progress Report on PSD D-23 (Thailand)

In accordance with its terms of reference, the OCD working group on coordination of PSD D-23 (U.S. Psychological Strategy Based on Thailand), submits below its summary of progress in implementation. Details of agency activities are given in Annexes A and B. Recommendations in respect to further activity under PSD D-23 are also set forth for reference and action as appropriate.

I. Summary Progress Report

A. Actions taken: Substantially all actions assigned in PSD D-23 are in process of being carried out by the responsible agencies. Ambassador Donovan has made arrangements with the Thai Government on both policy and working levels to coordinate U.S. and Thai efforts to achieve the objective of "increasing its stability and making its frontiers more defensible".

B. Actions not taken: (1) Discussion continues on the most advantageous means of implementing the requirement of strengthened, obligatory educational courses for all U.S. official personnel assigned to Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. (2) Legal and budgetary restrictions have limited the scope of the exchange program set forth in D-23.

C. Additional actions: The several proposals made by Ambassador Donovan in his report with recommendations presented before the NSC Planning Board for military, economic and technical assistance will further strengthen the overall US program in Thailand. All are considered to be in accordance with the policy of D-23. The various projects are at different stages of development. For details see Annexes A and B.

II. Recommendations

Since the validity of PSD D-23 has been reinforced by events and US policy decisions, and progress in implementing it has been good, it is recommended that:

A. PSD D-23 be continued in force without amendment, as contributing to the attainment of overall US objectives in Southeast Asia (cf. NSC 5405).

B. Phase II not be initiated at present but that planning for the various aspects of Phase II be continued.

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C. The Operations Coordinating Board approve a requirement for a further report on PSD D-23 as of June 30, 1954, or earlier if circumstances indicate.

D. In order to conform to the findings of the Committee on International Information Activities, the word "psychological" be stricken from the title of PSD D-23 (i.e., "U.S. Strategy Based on Thailand").

Kenneth P. Landon

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Chairman

OCD Working Group on

PSD D-23

Attachments: Annex A - Report on Implementation of D-23.
Annex B - Summary of Recommendations by Ambassador Donovan.

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ANNEX A - Report on Implementation of D-23

Department of State

Basic Tasks:

1. Induce the Thai Government to carry out measures to reduce vulnerabilities to communist subversion, and combat communist influence on former opposition leaders (V, 2, b., (3)).

Action: This task is carried out under the guidance of the Ambassador and is followed by US officials in consulting and advising the Thai Government in its military, economic and related programs. The Thai Government is cooperating to the best of its ability.

2. Strengthen and make obligatory educational courses for official personnel (V, 2, b., (7)).

Action: The Foreign Service Institute of State has put forward a proposal including training in Washington and continuing field study. Discussion continues on the best means of operating such a program within the limits of personnel management and budgetary restrictions. There is agreement that there should be preliminary orientation in Washington. However, the consensus is that language and area training should be primarily conducted in the field. The Foreign Service Institute will be requested to consult with training divisions of the other agencies to work out the details.

Special Undertakings:

1. Provide for more IES grants and staff if required, for this and Bi-National Institute (V, 2, c., (1)(a)).

Action: IES grants have been held at the 1953 level by transfers from other resources. Another transfer has provided for three specialists grants for Thai to come to the United States.

2. Assign the best qualified officer for a Thai survey (V, 2, c., (1)(b)).

Action: Mr. Landon, Officer in Charge, Thai and Malayan Affairs, traveled for five weeks in Thailand and conducted the survey required. The substance of his report was utilized by Ambassador Donovan in his recommendations and by the working group in preparing this report.

3. Request if appropriate a new NGRC representative in Bangkok (V, 2, c., (1)(c)).

Action: Embassy Bangkok has been queried and as no reply has been received, a further query is being sent.

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4. Promote regional inter-Asian exchange of persons (V, 2, c., (1)(d)).

Action: This action cannot be carried out because there is currently no enabling legislation. Embassy Bangkok has been instructed to discuss inter-Asian exchanges with Mr. Luther Evans, the new Director General for UNESCO, in the hope that such exchanges might be arranged under UN auspices.

5. (Transferred from USIA) Explore the feasibility and desirability of a Thai-controlled mobile transmitter at or near the Thai-Laos frontier (V, 2, c., (4)(b)).

Action: State will instruct the US Ambassador to explore with the Thai Government, as required. The nature of the request by the Thai Government will determine how the request will be handled by the U.S. Government.

Department of Defense

Basic Tasks:

1. Strengthen and make obligatory educational courses for official personnel (V, 2, b., (7)).

Action: For inter-agency consultation, see State, Basic Tasks 2. The Services are examining their current efforts but see substantial practical difficulties in reprogramming. In the meantime, MAAG Bangkok has arranged with the Thai Ministry of Defense for MAAG personnel to receive from Thai sources a grounding in the history, culture, customs, and problems of Thailand.

2. Encourage the Thai Government to strengthen orientation programs for their military personnel (V, 2, b., (8)).

Action: MAAG and USIS Bangkok are jointly encouraging the Thai Government but as of this date no report from MAAG has been received concerning results obtained.

Special Undertakings:

1. Stage an air show in Bangkok after consultation with Embassy, Bangkok (V, 2, c., (2)(a)).

Action: A show of air strength was conducted on the King's birthday and routine air and naval visits are continuing on an increased scale.

2. Attach to MAAG a suitably qualified psywar officer (V, 2, c., (2)(b)).

Action: The Chief of Staff, US Army has initiated the necessary action to comply.

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3. Effect coordination of military visits with FW agencies (V, 2, c., (2)(c)).

Action: This is accomplished routinely on the initiative of Embassy Bangkok.

Foreign Operations Administration

Basic Tasks:

1. Maintain economic aid and technical assistance program, with emphasis as in V, 2, b., (1).

Action: The regular and supplemental FOA programs for Thailand for FY 1954 have been approved totalling \$5,540,000. The program is in various stages of implementation with emphasis on the northeastern section of the country and on projects which demonstrate US interest in the welfare of the people.

2. Strengthen and make obligatory educational courses for official personnel (V, 2, b., (7)).

Action: FOA has submitted a proposal to the working group and pending inter-agency decisions is continuing its existing arrangements.

Special Undertakings:

1. Continue with a high priority economic programs in support of the objectives of this strategy (V, 2, c., (4)).

Action: This is being done as in 1. above.

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United States Information Agency

In accordance with PSB D-23, USIA has strengthened its program in Thailand. \$280,000 additional funds have been made available to Thailand and adjacent areas for the remainder of fiscal year 1954. Of this total, \$155,000 will be available for Thailand (\$110,000 is available for Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia and \$15,000 for Burma). The personnel complement for Thailand is being increased from 17 to 30. A new PAO has been assigned to Thailand (Mr. Meader, more recently PAO in Singapore). A qualified Information Officer has been transferred directly from Manila to Bangkok and a Press Officer has been transferred from Tokyo. The program expansion provides for three additional offices (Korat, Ubon, Nong Khai) in Northeast Thailand and increased program activities will emphasize press, publications, and motion pictures. There will be an increased distribution of publications through Buddhist organizations. Motion picture activity will include production of documentaries, newsreels, and shorts. A moderate expansion in radio programming will be supplemented by the distribution of community receiving sets.

Basic Tasks:

1. Develop or expand overt programs, wherever possible in cooperation with local governments, with objectives in V, 2, b., (2).

Action: See introductory paragraph.

2. Stimulate and support overt Thai information activities (V, 2, b., (5)).

Action: See introductory paragraph.

3. Strengthen and make obligatory educational courses for official personnel (V, 2, b., (7)).

Action: For inter-agency consultation, see State, Basic Tasks 2., meanwhile, USIA is continuing its program.

4. Encourage the Thai Government to strengthen suitable information programs for the general public, as in V, 2, b., (8).

Action: USIS, Bangkok is undertaking this task in cooperation with other agencies.

Special Undertakings:

1. Strengthen the existing USIS program in Thailand as in V, 2, c., (4)(a).

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Action: See introductory paragraph.

2. Intensify information activities in northeast Thailand (V, 2, c., (4)(c)).

Action: See introductory paragraph.

3. Continue VOA Thai language broadcasts, unless better use can be made of personnel and organization (V, 2, c., (4)(d)).

Action: VOA Thai language broadcasts are being continued.

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ANNEX B - Summary of Recommendations by Ambassador Donovan

Military

1. Doubling the number of personnel in a new joint US military advisory group.

Action: Agreed; 140 additional officers and men are being assigned to JUSMAG.

2. Furnishing a squadron of jet planes to Thailand.

Action: Not yet agreed.

Economic:

1. \$2,500,000 in soft goods.

Action: Under consideration; awaiting justification from JUSMAG.

2. Northeast highway.

Action: FOA and State are awaiting the Defense reply to State's communication approving it in principle for planning purposes.

3. Supply of isotopes and training two Thai technicians in their use.

Action: Agreed by AEC, pending completion of formalities by Thai Government.

Political-Psychological

1. Ambassador Donovan recommended and the Thai cabinet adopted a proposal to establish a board under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister to develop a political-psychological program carried out by Thai in liaison with the U.S. Ambassador and selected members of the U.S. Mission in Thailand.

2. Reorganization of USIS program in Thailand.

Action: This has been done. See Annex A.

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